

# News Release



**Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge**  
**1710 360th Street**  
**Titonka, IA 50480**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 3, 2014

**Contact:** Refuge Staff at 515-928-2523

### **Come Join the Christmas Bird Count at Union Slough NWR**

The Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge cordially invites the public to participate in a Christmas Bird Count hosted by the Refuge on Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. You can join by braving the elements during the field count beginning at the Refuge or by participating in the feeder count.

The field count will begin with participants meeting at the Refuge office at 7:30 am. The count will continue throughout the day with a lunch provided at noon. Experience in bird identification is not required as experienced bird watchers will be available to assist new birders. While the count occurs throughout the day, participants are welcome to come and go as they wish. Participants should dress for winter weather and bring binoculars and a bird book (if they have them). Please contact the Refuge at 515-928-2523 or Tyler Harms by email (tyharms@gmail.com) or phone (515-320-4975) prior to the count date for more information on the field count.

Residents in and around Bancroft, Burt, and Titonka can participate by counting birds at the feeders in their yard for all or part of the day. Interested parties can contact Tyler Harms by email (tyharms@gmail.com) or phone (515-320-4975) prior to the count date for more information on the feeder count.

The Christmas Bird Count is a citizen-driven bird census that began on Christmas Day in 1900 with 27 observers at 25 locations across Canada and the United States. The Count is compiled by the National Audubon Society and serves as the largest and longest-running Citizen Science program in the world. The Count has grown to include over 63,000 counters at more than 2,200 locations each year from the Arctic Circle to the southern tip of South America. The information collected during the Christmas Bird Count is used in combination with other long-term, continent-wide, monitoring programs to give us an understanding of the dynamics of bird populations across North America. More information on the Christmas Bird Count can be found at: <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>.

Union Slough NWR is located 6 miles east of Bancroft, IA on County Road A-42. Visit Union Slough NWR and the Friends of Union Slough NWR on Facebook!

*For more information on the Midwest Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service visit <http://midwest.fws.gov>.*

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).*

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